

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 PRS-01

SS-15 NSC-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 INR-07 IO-10 NEA-10 NSAE-00 OPIC-03 SP-02

TRSE-00 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 FEAE-00 NSCE-00

EURE-00 /096 W

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O R 191621Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE IMMEDIATE 7411

USMISSION OECD PARIS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

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C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 10566

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OECD, IEA, ENRG, AU

SUBJECT: IEA DEVELOPMENTS-AUSTRIA POSTPONES RATIFICATION OF IEP
AGREEMENT; FURTHER GOA COMMENTS ON CIEC

REF: A. OECD PARIS 32127; B. OECD PARIS 32702

1. SUMMARY: AUSTRIA INTENDS TO REQUEST EXTENSION OF IEP RATIFICATION PERIOD UNTIL JUNE 30, 1976 AND DOES NOT PLAN TO DEPOSIT INSTRUMENT OF RATIFICATION UNTIL ITS ENERGY BILL (ENABLING LEGISLATION) HAS BEEN PASSED BY PARLIAMENT. GOA OFFICIALS APPEAR FAIRLY RELAXED ABOUT NON-PARTICIPATION IN CIEC BUT URGE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF ASSURANCE THAT NON-PARTICIPATING OECD COUNTRIES WOULD BE FULLY INVOLVED AND INFORMED SWIFTLY. END SUMMARY.

2. IEA. DURING PRE-HOLIDAY CALLS ON STATE SECRETARY VESELSKY (FEDERAL CHANCELLERY) AND AMBASSADOR SEYFFERTITZ (FOREIGN MINISTRY), BOTH INFORMED ECONCOUNS THAT GOA INTENDS AT TODAY'S IEA GOVERNING BOARD MEETING TO REQUEST EXTENSION OF RATIFICATION PERIOD UNTIL JUNE 30, 1976. ALTHOUGH PARLIAMENT HAD APPROVED AUSTRIAN IEA MEMBERSHIP GOA DOES NOT WISH TO DEPOSIT INSTRUMENT OF RATIFICATION UNTIL ENABLING LEGISLATION HAS BEEN PASSED BY PARLIAMENT. BECAUSE OF INTERNAL DIFFICULTIES IN RESOLVING SEVERAL KEY ISSUES SUCH AS QUESTION OF FINANCING EMERGENCY STORAGE FACILITIES AND THE CHARACTER OF SEVERAL PROVISIONS OF THE ENERGY BILL WHICH LOCAL INDUSTRY CONSIDERS TOO AUTOCRATIC, GOA DOES NOT ANTICIPATE PASSAGE UNTIL NEXT SPRING. BOTH VESELSKY AND SEYFFERTITZ EXPRESSED KEEN INTEREST IN STATUS OF U.S. ENERGY LEGISLATION AND ASKED WHETHER U.S. WOULD RATIFY BEFORE END OF THIS YEAR.

3. VESELSKY OBSERVED THAT GOA WANTS TO USE PENDING RATIFICATION OF IEP AS LEVERAGE TO RESOLVE THE VARIOUS CONTROVERSIES IN THE AUSTRIAN ENERGY
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SECTOR AND THUS PAVE WAY FOR PASSAGE OF MEANINGFUL LEGISLATION TO IMPLEMENT IEP OBJECTIVES AND A LONGER RANGE DOMESTIC ENERGY PROGRAM.

4. CIEC. VESELSKY APPEARED REASONABLY RELAXED ON MATTER OF AUSTRIA'S NON-PARTICIPATION IN CIEC. HE SAID OBVIOUSLY THEY WERE QUITE DISAPPOINTED BUT FELT THAT "PERHAPS IT HAD TURNED OUT BEST FOR

AUSTRIA THIS WAY". GOA HAD INTENTIONALLY PLAYED NON-PARTICIPATION IN LOW KEY TO AVOID PRESS HEADLINES OR PUBLIC CRITICISM. ASKED WHETHER CHANCELLOR STILL PLANNED TO MAKE PUBLIC STATEMENT THIS SUBJECT (PARA 2, REF A) VESELSKY SAID HE MIGHT BUT WAS NOT SURE. SEYFFERTITZ, WHO HAS JUST BEEN APPOINTED AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY SAID THAT IT WAS HIS PERSONAL VIEW (HE EMPHASIZED "PERSONAL") THAT THE SELECTION OF THE INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES TO PARTICIPATE IN CIEC WAS AN "OPTIMAL" SELECTION UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES. THERE HAD NEVER BEEN ANY QUESTION IN HIS MIND THAT NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE COULD ONLY SUCCEED IF SIZE OF GROUP WAS KEPT WITHIN REASONABLE BOUNDS. ALTHOUGH THERE HAD BEEN AMPLE VALID ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT OF GOA'S CANDIDACY, HE BELIEVED THAT GOA HAD ADJUSTED ITSELF TO THE REALITY OF THE SITUATION. SEYFFERTITZ EMPHASIZED NEED FOR WORKING OUT A GOOD, FAST, AND SMOOTH SYSTEM FOR KEEPING NON-PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES FULLY INFORMED AND INVOLVED. TOO LITTLE INFORMATION RECEIVED TOO LATE WOULD NOT DO, HE SAID. GOA HOPED THAT THE MECHANICS OF THE SYSTEM WOULD AFFORD IT (GOA) RECOMMENDATIONS.

5. COMMENT. IT SEEMS THAT GOA HAS QUICKLY MANAGED TO SWALLOW ITS PRIDE ON NON-PARTICIPATION IN CIEC AND WILL CONCENTRATE ITS EFFORTS ON KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH CIEC DEVELOPMENTS. WE EXPECT CHANCELLOR KREISKY WILL NOT GO OUT OF HIS WAY TO COMMENT PUBLICLY ABOUT NON-PARTICIPATION, BUT WILL KEEP A WATCHFUL EYE ON FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS FROM THE WINGS. MEANWHILE GOA WILL CONCENTRATE ON IEA OBJECTIVES BY RESOLVING COMPLEX AND SENSITIVE INTERNAL ISSUES UNDERLYING

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TREATY RATIFICATION, MEETING PROCEEDINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975VIENNA10566
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750442-0054
From: VIENNA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751226/aaaaawlh.tel
Line Count: 155
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 OECD PARIS 32127, 75 OECD PARIS 32702
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; RELEASED <22 SEP 2003 by greeneet>; APPROVED <23 SEP 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IEA DEVELOPMENTS-AUSTRIA POSTPONES RATIFICATION OF IEP AGREEMENT; FURTHER GOA COMMENTS ON CIEC
TAGS: ENRG, AU, OECD, IEA
To: STATE OECD PARIS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006